

The BAHÁ'Í Connection

The Newsletter for the Bahá'ís of Southeastern Colorado

July 1991

UNITY OF MANKIND



Merit Badge for Scouting Programs.
awarded to Kelsey Barnes see article pg 3

The Institute to Create Patterns of Unity Attends Community Congress

COLORADO SPRINGS - 5 members of The Institute to Create Patterns of Unity attended the two day day congress.

Friday night was a vision of what you would like to see in Colorado Springs. The group Toni Goggans attended seemed to have a similar theme of unifying the diverse elements of the Community.

Saturday they collected all the themes from the various groups which totaled about 350 people. Next they went through and set priorities for them and ended up with the ten top issues. These then are forwarded to the Citizen Goals Executive Committee. From there they will pick a 2-5 year long term goal and a short term goal for the next year. Action Research committee will then figure out the manner in which these can be implemented.

A copy of the cover letter on the Institute to Create Patterns of Unity and the letter from National on the Most Challenging Issue was hand delivered to fifty people within the community.

"One fellow who received the cover letter from the Institute came back the next day and requested information on when the Institute meets. A copy of the compilation was given to him and we will get back to him." said Toni Goggans. Progress!

The general spirit of the congress was to make use of the diversity in the community.

April Goggans contributed by speaking about the Bahá'í Community and our non political affiliation. *continued page 4*

Calendar of Events

Colorado Springs

July 12, Friday, 7:15 pm-FEAST at PPMHC Hosted by Saed Sobhani

July 31, Wednesday, 7:15 pm -FEAST at PPMHC Hosted by Dr. Rahimpour & family

El Paso County

July 12, Friday 7:00 pm -FEAST at Stamats

July 31, Wednesday 7:00 -FEAST at Pat Kelly's

Manitou Springs

July 14, Sunday 9:00 am -FEAST after CLEAN UP in UTE pass

July 31, Wednesday, 12:30 am FEAST at Hornor's Yes after midnight???

Pueblo

July 9, Tuesday, 12:00, -HOLY DAY Bring Your Own Lunch for remembrance of the Martyrdom of the Bab.to John and Ester Stevenson's, 220 Cleveland, Pueblo.

July 12, 7:00 Friday -FEAST at The Bahá'í Center hosted by Walter Tihonovich

Parade Float Schedule

La Junta July 4

Ordway July 27

State Fair August 24

Fountain September 2nd

Arvada date not known as of press time

Assistance needed please call John Stevenson in Pueblo at (719) 544-9602

Some Events for Everyone

July 9 at 7:00 pm An evening with Ms. Donna Kime and her husband Mr. Ken Jeffers, a travel teacher on "What's Happening in Russia" as a Fireside. To be held at the Bahá'í Center, Pueblo. Come hear first hand about developments that are occurring in Russia.

Children's Camping Weekend

July 12, 13 & 14 Pike National Campground (same location as last year)

ALL-AGES, Class, Childrens Classes, Games, Bonfire Activities, Water Fun. Cost \$6.00 per person a bargain. Registrar: John Bolz, 345 London Ave., Lafayette, CO 80026.

Firesides

Wed - Co. Spgs. Rickert 260-7732

Friday - Co. Spgs. Afnani 590-7049

Sunday - Co. Spgs. Ostovar 596-3966

Friday - El Paso Co. Rouhani 392-6472



Victory in Growth: a Videotape from NSA

This videotape from the National Spiritual Assembly directs our attention to the urgent and perhaps limited time to teach others about our faith.

Each of the member of NSA speaks about the importance of teaching during the remainder of the Six Year Plan.

Some comments from the videotape. From Judge Nelson, Chairman NSA "First of all in analyzing the degree of receptivity in the American community at large, we were immediately and unanimously struck by the fact that the receptivity is certainly not at all diminished. That this window in time, that House of Justice says may close someday is indeed at the moment open. The field is vacant that the arena has been cleared of virtually all obstacles to our teaching." Judge Nelson speaking further as to the answer for teaching stated from an unanimous understanding that "...the answer is not in methods, mechanics it is not in ways and it is not means it is not in terms of a product which we are producing. The answer to development the answer to victory in growth is simply a matter of deciding it is so."

The Afnani's return from Pilgrimage - Exuberant

Soheila has shared with "The Bahá'í Connection" some tidbits from the pilgrimage she and her husband, Muin Afnani, have had the privilege to take.

It is the custom for those on pilgrimage in the evenings to meet with and listen to members of the Universal House of Justice and the International Teaching Center tell stories about the development of the Faith from around the world.

One evening a member of the International

Teaching Center told a story about the eagerness of the people in Rumania to enter the Faith. At one point where the Bahá'ís had set up a registration table and another table for explaining the Faith. The Rumanians would approach the table to register as Bahá'ís and would have to be told that they should go to the other table to find out what the Faith was all about and see if they would like to become Bahá'ís. Invariably they would return and register.

Hand of the Cause of God Alí-Akbar Furútan

One evening Mr. Furútan related a story about two elderly Bahá'ís in Ishqábád who remembered Mr. Furútan from the early days. One of the two is a man in his eighties, who after the onset of communism was placed in Siberia for twenty years. In spite of the restriction against practicing religion these Bahá'ís continued to instruct their children and grandchildren about the Faith, in fact there are several cases of 3rd and 4th generations of Bahá'ís, who remain deeply attached to the Faith.

Mr. Furútan said that Shoghi Effendi had claimed "that the banner of the Faith would rise in Siberia" and as of a few weeks ago 27, 28 assemblies had formed. Mr. Furútan was also a witness in Moscow to the national convention election and he was impressed with the prayerful attitude that the delegates took in the voting process which lasted an hour and half. In one particular case Mr. Furútan watched as one individual as he wrote names then scribbled some out then prayed and then wrote some more and then scribbled them all out and prayed and then finished the ballot.

The Braytons and Jenkins former residents of this area and now working at the World Center have sent their love to all. The Braytons may return in August for a short visit.

Kelsey Barnes receives Unity of Mankind Merit Badge from Girl Scouts.

The National Teaching Committee through a special unit to work on establishing merit badges for scouts created a list of requirements which youth may receive after accomplishing specific criteria of the award.

Kelsey memorized 10 prayers, read and wrote book reports on 5 books on the Faith, wrote 2 short stories, learned the twelve principles, designed 3 posters, plus more.

A big salute to Kelsey for her achievement. Great going!

A Transformation How To

There is no deliberate way for you to direct the spiritual transformation of your life without assessing where you are now in relation to where you want to be at some time in the future. That we should appraise our own spiritual condition-bring ourselves to account each day-is an integral part of our responsibility as a vital caring human beings. Self-appraisal, then is at the heart of any deliberate conscious effort to become spiritually transformed. It is the hallmark of a spiritually mature person. The following steps are suggested to help you undertake an appraisal of your own spiritual condition and decide what to do to improve it.

1 Ask yourself a variety of questions such as those following. An honest answer to each one will constitute the elements of self-appraisal in terms sufficiently clear for you to begin planning a course of action to improve your life spiritually.

a. What are your general feelings about your life? About how you are using your energies now? About how you are undertaking all of your current responsibilities (as a community member, as a parent, as a family member, as an employee, etc.).

b. What aspects of your life bother you?

c. What kind of feedback do you get from other people? Do they indicate that they like being around you? Do they express appreciation for what you do? Do they try to avoid you? Do they impose on you? Do they always criticize you?

2. Select one or more of your behavior patterns (habits) that you know to be 'unspiritual', in other words, not in accordance with God's purpose for humankind. This would be some patterned use of energy that you would like to change.

3. Decide to stop investing energy in the behavior patterns that represent the unspiritual habit.

4. Decide what pattern of behavior (habit) to replace it with. This is an important step. Simply deciding not to do something is usually only half the job. If you stop investing energy in a habit you want to get rid of, that energy will still be available to you and could wisely be invested in a behavior pattern that will replace the unwanted habit. Transformation is easier if energy withdrawn from one pattern of behavior is invested in a new pattern that is in accordance with God's purpose for humankind.

5. Hold your intention to create the new habit in conscious awareness through daily prayers and a restatement of your commitment every morning before you start your day and periodically throughout the the day.

6. Ask yourself each evening how you did and rehearse in your mind's eye what you will do on the following day to improve. The rehearsal of the new behavior pattern should be an important element of your meditation and can be held in mind during your prayers.

7. Most essential, however, is the rehearsal of the new behavior pattern in actual life. As you rehearse the new behavior patterns, they become new habits which replace the old habits. Every new spiritual habit that replaces an old unspiritual habit is a milestone in spiritual transformation. It takes place little by little, day by day.

8. Express gratitude in your prayers for the progress you are making.

Dear Bahá'í Connection,

Enjoyed receiving the Bahá'í Connection up here in Idaho. I feel as though you are right next door. I'm on the DTC here in south Idaho and we were all impressed with the layout, the content and the upgrade in the newsletter. I can remember when it was an 8 1/2 by 11 paper stapled. Congratulations on a fine publication. We miss you all dearly. We have lots of room in our "Bahá'í house" here. So please come visit.

with warm Bahá'í greetings,
Judy and Glen Silcock

CommUnity Congress Continued from page 1

The following is the letter distributed during the congress.

The Institute to Create Patterns of Unity, is a group of individuals in the Colorado Springs area who are personally committed to healing the wounds of the past and building a society in which people of diverse backgrounds live as members of one family. It is our fundamental belief that the oneness of mankind is a spiritual principle and that establishing unity among the various races of mankind is a process that begins each individual accepting this principle.

Racial disunity is the most pressing issue confronting America today, on both local and national levels. America's peace, prosperity, and even her standing in the international community, depend to a great extent on the resolution of this issue. As the

Nation approaches the year 2000, the population of both indigenous (African-American, Hispanic American, Native American and Asian American) and non-indigenous (primarily from Southeast Asia and Latin America) minority populations will increase significantly, and we believe this is the time to lay the foundations needed so that our's will be a harmoniously functioning society that permits the full expression of the potential of all persons".

The members of the Institute are from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Membership is open to anyone who desires personally to help foster a climate of racial peace and unity in the Colorado Springs area. Although initially begun by a group of members from the Bahá'í Faith, the Institute is open to all regardless of religious affiliation.

Institute meetings are held on a monthly basis and are informal, focusing on self-education & group discussion. In addition, the Institute seeks out and supporting the activities of other organizations which are working for racial and cultural unity.

We are excited about opportunities to join forces with kindred souls working towards similar goals. Institute members are available to serve on boards and committees or as speakers for interested organizations.

Barnes Family on Temporary Move, Perhaps?

Lynn and Jeff Barnes have temporarily moved to the midwest to seek their fortunes. We hope they find them and return soon! Whatever choices they make we wish them the best. A thank you to Lynn for her work on this newsletter.

The Bahá'í Connection is published monthly by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Colorado Springs, 5690 Del Paz, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Information for publication only should be sent to Richard or Maria Stamats, 705 Drew Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80911 or call (719) 392-6472 on or preferably before the 20th of each month.

Change of addresses should also be sent to the above address.

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